

QUICKIES...QUICKIES...



CHRISTIAN Slater, left, has decided to quit Hollywood and move to London full time. The star of West End show *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* admitted he's bowled over by the schools and historical sites. The 35-year-old star, who is married to actress **Ryan Haddon**, has made no secret of his desire to leave the US. Earlier this year he said he was "head over heels" about Britain.

Picture: UK PRESS



Picture: DAVE BENNETT



A NIGHT AT THE OPERA: Jen, far right, put Minnie, below, soap beauty Amy, above, Adele, right, and Denise, top, in the shade



Picture: DAVE BENNETT

Picture: ALPHA

Glittering Jen steals the show

SEXY Jennifer Ellison looked a real gem at the glitzy premiere of her first movie last night – in a £20,000 diamante-studded dress.

The 21-year-old, who plays a ballerina in *The Phantom Of The Opera*, also took a starring role on the red carpet at London's West End. She said of her film role: "I keep having to pinch myself to believe this has happened to me."

The film's star **Minnie Driver** dazzled in a lacy Dolce & Gabbana frock. Also there were *Emmerdale* babe **Amy Nuttall**, her former soap colleague **Adele Silver**, **Denise van Outen** and boy band **McFly**. The film opens nationwide on December 10.

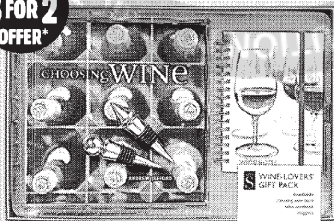
Jen's movie dream: Centre pages

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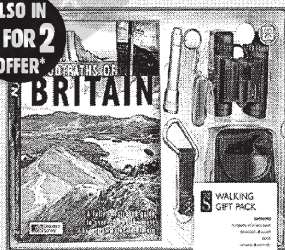
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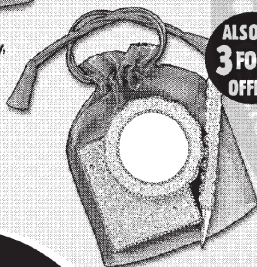
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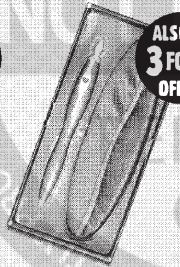
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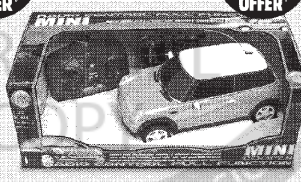
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News in brief

HO HO, SANTA
IS J.LO!

SINGER Jennifer Lopez will ditch the bling at Christmas to turn Santa at homeless shelters in the part of New York where she grew up.

The Latino star, 34, has told husband Marc Anthony, 34, she will spend December 25 with hard-up fans in the Bronx.

An insider said: "Jen will be taking basic gifts with her and is planning to sing a selection of her favourite songs."



GIFTS: Jennifer

'Suicide' drug alert

PILLS given to fight depression could actually make people suicidal, health chiefs have warned.

Up to 3.5 million people in England have been prescribed an anti-depressant called Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors.

But these can spark suicidal thoughts and experts insist counselling can be just as effective as drugs in treating cases of mild depression.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence chief Andrew Dillon said: "Drugs have an important role to play, but there are many effective alternatives."

NEW BLOW TO
JACKO

TRIAL: Jackson

THE brother of a boy allegedly abused by Michael Jackson saw the star molest the youngster, it was claimed yesterday.

The crucial new witness says he stumbled across Jacko, 46, with the then 12-year-old in a bedroom at the singer's Neverland ranch.

The brother will now be called to give evidence at Jackson's trial, due to start in Los Angeles next month.

140mph blunder

BUNGLING prosecutors were blasted after a biker clocked at 140mph was allowed to keep his licence.

They let Gary Field, 34, admit careless driving instead of pursuing a charge of dangerous driving.

It meant Field, of Chandler's Ford, Hants - who was stopped near Winchester after a police chase - was fined £400 instead of being automatically banned.

Judge Michael Brodick told Winchester Crown Court yesterday that the prosecutors' decision was "astounding". He added: "I'm not sure that the public will feel justice has been done."

BRITNEY'S BED
'N BAWD

POP princess Britney Spears is designing a room at the hotel where she enjoyed a steamy romp with a childhood pal and wed him days later.

Britney, 23 - who was married to Jason Alexander, 22, for 55 hours - is fashioning a suite at the £2,000-a-night Palms Hotel in Los Angeles.

She has already designed a Boston hotel suite resembling her childhood home.



SO SUITE: Britney

Dads' tower power

PROTESTERS from Fathers 4 Justice have taken their campaign to new heights after bluffing their way to the top of a 450ft concrete tower.

Five men posed as window cleaners to gain access to the top of Liverpool's tallest building, St John's Beacon, home to Radio City 96.7.

The protesters, dressed as Father Christmas, say they have enough supplies for a week-long demonstration. Spokesman Rory Wilmer said: "Police have been up to negotiate with us but we can barricade ourselves in if necessary."

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Pictures: EPA, AP and REUTERS

Gang pull a blinder

THE pro-hunt protesters who stormed the Commons were able to get in because a policeman had forgotten his glasses. The bobby, now dubbed Pe Magoo, waved them through without even reading their forged invitation letter. Gang leader Otis Ferry, son of rock star Brian Ferry, said the raid, on September 15, was "frighteningly simple". Crown Prosecution Service lawyers are expected to decide before Christmas if the eight will face charges.

Ski cops piste off

FRENCH cops have accused British skiers of taking ze piste with bogus insurance claims for "stolen" equipment. They say hundreds of Brits line police stations on the final day of their holiday to falsely claim skis have been pinched. Now they are to launch spot-checks on cars for "lost" skis. A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said: "The police are getting a lot more savvy."

Elton, you're the other First Lady of America!

RAMBLING ROB HAS STAR GUESTS GASPING

RANTING rocker Sir Elton John kept his cool after he was hailed America's "other First Lady".

The gaffe was met by frosty silence from a celeb crowd which included President Bush and his wife Laura, the real First Lady.

Squirmed

Film actor Robert Downey Jr told the star-studded bash three phrases came to mind when he thought of Elton: "Genius, life-saver, the other First Lady".

The usually explosive Elton, 57, stayed tight-lipped as guests squirmed at the 39-year-old former drug addict's blunder. And as

by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

Chaplin star Downey carried on stumbling through his rambling speech at the 27th annual Kennedy Center Awards, where Sir Elton was honoured, the audience raised only a nervous laugh.

Elton, who has sold more than 60 million albums in three decades, was presented with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to American culture.

The singer-songwriter said the award was "the icing on the cake" of his career.

He gushed: "It's incredible for someone who's British to be given such an accolade from America which has given me so much already in my career."

But outspoken Elton, close friend of Victoria and David Beckham, was singing a different tune to the one he sang last month.

Scream

Then, the flamboyant rock star flew into an anti-Bush rant and called the President "the worst thing that has ever happened to America".

He went on: "I wanna just scream. It's a nightmare. These idiots think they can get away with anything. It enrages me."

Sir Elton was one of six people, including Warren Beatty and Star Wars composer John Williams, to be honoured at the do.



GAFFE: Downey Jr, above, and Elton and partner David Furnish below



Elt's tune changes

[Bush is] worst thing that has ever happened to America

— ELTON LAST MONTH

It's incredible to be given such an accolade from America

— ELTON SUNDAY NIGHT

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At last, Manics replace Richey

THE **Manic Street Preachers** have played with a new guitarist for the first time since **Richey Edwards** disappeared, aged 27.

The Manics vowed never to replace Edwards after he went missing. But they've taken on another guitarist, **Guy Massey**, for their current tour.

Edwards was last seen in London in February 1995. Police found his abandoned car two weeks later near the Severn Bridge in South Wales.

Despite alleged sightings in Goa and the Canary Islands, no trace of him has ever been found.

Bassist **Nicky Wire**, 33, said: "It was a difficult decision but we just needed another guitarist desperately. We always have done."



MISSED: Richey, front, with the Preachers

BURN from **Usher** is **David Beckham's** No.1 vid. The rest of his top five on MTV tonight are: 2. **Jay-Z**, 3. **Kanye West**, 4. **All Falls Down**, 5. **Notorious B.I.G.**, 6. **Mo Money Mo Problems**, 7. **Notorious B.I.G.**, 8. **Big Poppa**.

A HEARTFELT message to Hot readers seeing as it's the season of goodwill – buy **The 411's** album *Between The Sheets*. If only because it'll put a smile (and maybe more) on your favourite award-winning showbiz journalist **Joe Mott's** face. Gorgeous **Carolyn Owlett**, 23, has vowed: "There's an eclectic mix of songs for everyone. If Hot readers buy our album to multi-platinum status, I'll ask Joe Mott out." We've got the mistletoe at the ready...

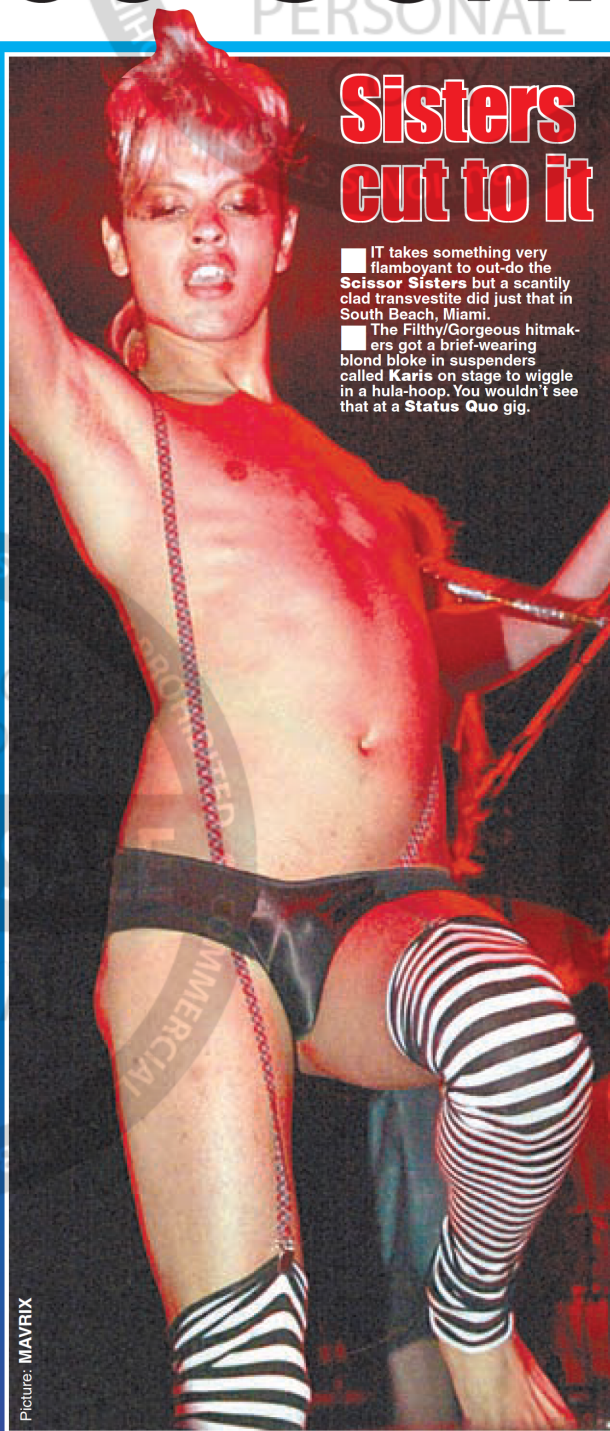


50 Cent

Sisters cut to it

■ IT takes something very flamboyant to out-do the **Scissor Sisters** but a scantily clad transvestite did just that in South Beach, Miami.

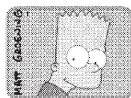
■ The Filthy/Gorgeous hitmakers got a brief-wearing blond bloke in suspenders called **Karis** on stage to wiggle in a hula-hoop. You wouldn't see that at a **Status Quo** gig.



Picture: MAVRIX

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JOE MOTT'S AWARD WINNING HOT

Edited
by KIM
DAWSON

TEEN
star JoJo wants to get
McFly in the studio with her. The
13-year-old, who had a hit with Leave (Get
Out), had dinner with the young rockers when
they shared the same hotel and JoJo swapped
numbers with bassist Dougie Poynter, 16. She
revealed: "I met McFly in Japan. We chilled a bit.
It'd be brilliant if me and McFly did something
together. My people are talking to their
people now. The boys have great
voices."



Racy Rach has a thing for the Girls

RACHEL STEVENS is turning to Girls
Aloud's producers to ensure her second
solo album is hit-packed.
The Aloud have recently announced their
first tour on the back of rave reviews for
their latest record, What Will The
Neighbours Say, and Rachel wants to
step into their dancey stilettos.
Pocket-sized Rach told me: "I am really
excited about getting into the studio
with Xenomania. They have had a great
year with Girls Aloud and I can't wait to
hear the songs they create for me."
My sources tell me that camp 80s band
Army Of Lovers are also keen to work
with Rachel, 26.
Sounds like we'll be hearing More, More,
More from the former S Clubber in 2005.

is smash hit RAP STARS IN JET SCUFFLE



HARDMAN 50 Cent landed in a
punch-up with another rapper
and his posse at an airport.

Fiddy, 28, got into fisticuffs while in
Lagos, Nigeria, it's alleged.
Eminem's protegee took none too
kindly to Nigerian rapper Eedris
Abdulkareem when he attempted to
sit in a seat reserved for the American
star.

A source explained: "50 Cent was in
Nigeria taking part in the
annual Star Mega Jam,
which brings top-name

EXCLUSIVE

talent to perform alongside popular local
artists.

"A private jet had been hired to take the
acts to Port Harcourt for a final performance
when 50 and Eedris got into a brawl
over who was sitting where."

The heated exchange of words boiled
over and eye witnesses stood gob-smacked,
watching the scuffle spill on to the tarmac
of the Murtala Muhammad Airport.

The scrap resulted in 50 pulling out
of his performance after the
Nigerian public had voted
him the international act
they most wanted to see.

An official at the
American Embassy in
Lagos confirmed the incident.

War

He said: "Although he is
an American citizen, he
came here under a private
arrangement and it is not
our business to ask him to
go back."

"The decision is up to 50
Cent's management team
and his sponsors."

The Mega Jam, staged in
four Nigerian cities, started
last Wednesday and finished
on Sunday.

Last month it was feared
fresh rap wars could break
out after 50's producer Dr
Dre was punched at an
awards bash.

At the Vibe awards in
Santa Monica a man was
stabbed following legendary
Dre getting a
smack in the chops as he
waited to receive a lifetime
achievement award.

IT'S THE LICKS AT BRIX

JULIETTE Lewis is
finally bringing her
rock and roll band to
these shores.

The Tinseltown star-
let has been making
waves Stateside with
her band The Licks and
now is set to do the
same over here.

The Licks make their
UK debut as part of
the Shockwaves NME
Awards Shows at
Brixton Academy on
14th February. Other
acts in the week-long
series of gigs include
The Ordinary Boys,
Hope Of The States
and Brett Anderson
and Bernard Butler's
new band The Tears.

CAUGHT LIVE

XFM WINTER
SHELTER GIG

Rockin' merry Xmas

Hammersmith
Apollo, London

IT'S Christmas - a season
of goodwill, generosity
and merriment

And the folks at Xfm
certainly know all about it -
pulling together the cream
of Brit rock royalty for
their Christmas Winter
Wonderland fandango.

Indie survivors Embrace
were joined by The Zutons,
Kasabian, motor mouth Johnny
Borrell (right) and his Razorlight
boys and upstarts The Departure.

Mixing dark Joy Division
aesthetics to early U2
guitar play, Departure con-
jured up an impressively
moody start.

The Zutons can never
be accused of being
moody and their Scouse
psychedelia kick-started
a ferociously springy
mosh pit.

Before Embrace
(inset) came a
typically incoherent spot
from Pete Doherty, a
stunning turn from
Kasabian and a ferocious
outing from Razorlight.

CARL STROUD



Pictures: ANGELA LUBRANO

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SHAMED: Pilot Nicholls

Boozing 767 pilot is jailed

A PILOT due to fly a Boeing 767 with 200 passengers on board while more than six times over the drink limit was jailed yesterday.

Shamed Charles Nicholls, 54, a captain with Royal Brunei Airways, accepted he had drunk a "large amount" the day before.

But he claimed he had observed the pilots' alcohol rule of "12 hours from bottle to throttle".

Limit

Nicholls, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, admitted a charge of carrying out flight preparations as captain of Royal Brunei Airways flight B198 from Heathrow to Dubai in July this year when he was over the drink limit.

He was jailed for six months at Isleworth Crown Court.

Judge Richard McGregor-Johnson told him: "Your blood-alcohol level was over one-and-a-half times the limit for driving a car, let alone flying a passenger aircraft."

JUDGE BRANDS eBay A FRAUDSTERS' PARADISE

A JUDGE labelled eBay a fraudsters' paradise yesterday after hearing how a conwoman made £3,000 in a Glastonbury ticket sting.

Sara-Louise Hambridge, 28, advertised tickets to last year's music festival on the internet auction site.

But she never had any to sell and simply pocketed the cheques sent to her. Hambridge, who carried out the fraud from the comfort of her living room, was given a nine-month jail term suspended for two years.

But Judge Richard Bray said the ease with which she committed her crimes should serve as a warning to all eBay users.

by JERRY LAWTON

Serious

Judge Bray - who had never previously heard of the website - said: "It seems to me it's extremely easy for fraudsters to go on and make money dishonestly."

"This case should serve as a serious warning."

"It's all right for the fraudsters, but there should be more warnings for people who want to use this system."

"It is based entirely on trust, with no checking at all. Trusting people send money in good faith."

"I'm not surprised that there is fraud. It is truly amazing." Leicester Crown

Court heard Hambridge duped five customers into buying 19 tickets for the festival, featuring acts including REM, Radiohead and the Manic Street Preachers.

One gave her £720 for four and in total she took £3,021. The police were called in by the worried winning bidders.

Hambridge claimed the tickets must have got lost in the post. But she later admitted five charges of obtaining property by deception.

The judge told Hambridge, of Leicester, he was suspending her sentence only because the court heard she was ill. A spokesman for eBay said last night: "Fewer than 0.01% of all listings on eBay result in a confirmed case of fraud and when used properly the site is a safe and secure place to buy and sell."



FLUFFY: Charlotte slips out

What a Charlie

TEENAGE warbler
Charlotte Church managed a smile yesterday despite being spotted dressed like a grandmother.

The voice of an angel star
looked older than her 18 years as she emerged in a big sheepskin coat and white fluffy slippers.

And the Welsh singer
appeared oblivious to the world outside with her head buried in sexy book *Memoirs Of A Geisha*.



Pictures: CHRIS DAVIS/BIGPICTURES.COM

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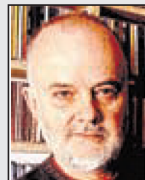
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PEEL ON NEW SINGLE

THE voice of late Radio One DJ John Peel, right, will appear on a new single called *Things Can Only Get Better*.

The track, released online by viralmusic.co.uk, is by DJ Superboss, aka Steven McKeown. Peel, 65, died in October while he was holidaying in Peru.



RELEASE: Peel

DJ killed in raid horror

A TOP radio DJ was hurled to his death from a burglary gang's getaway car as he tried to stop them, a court heard.

Brave dad-of-three Tushar Makwana, 37, clung on to the raiders' motor but was thrown off as it swerved, leaving him with fatal head injuries.

He'd given chase after youths kicked their way into his home and tried to find the keys to his BMW, which was parked on his driveway.

A jury heard the Heart FM DJ - who won a Sony Radio Academy Award, the industry equivalent of an Oscar, two years ago - died in hospital three days later. Kevin Hegarty, prosecuting, said the death took place during a spate of raids allegedly carried out by the gang.

Steal

After the incident at Mr Makwana's home in Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, the raiders then drove to another address in a bid to steal a second BMW.

Michael McGuire, 18, Ashley Cooksey, 18, Brett Frewin, 17, and Matthew Jeffrey, 17, all deny manslaughter at Leicester Crown Court. The trial continues.

Sleep to beat fat

PEOPLE who sleep less are more likely to pile on the pounds.

Dr Shahrad Taheri, of Bristol University, found volunteers who got just five hours' kip a night became hungrier and ate more than those who slept for eight hours.

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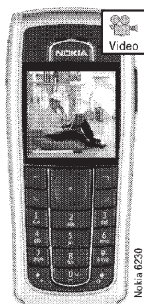
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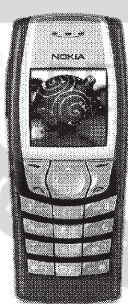
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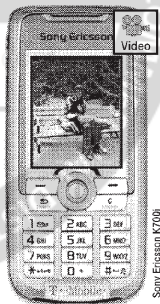
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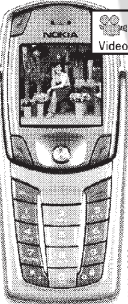
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GRUMPY: Tony

Tony's spook visitor

HOLLYOAKS grump Tony Hutchinson will be depicted as Scrooge in the teen soap's new take on the Christmas tale.

Tony (Nick Pickard, 29) is infuriating pals and family by refusing to get into the festive spirit.

He has already punctured a cargo of giant inflatable Santas outside his restaurant. And his girlfriend Mandy Richardson (Sarah Dunn, 22) gets so fed up she walks out.

Flash

But he wakes in the night to find the ghost of his old mate James "Jambo" Bolton (Will Mellor, 28) in his bed. Jambo says he's the ghost of Christmas past.

Then Tony sees images of his life flash up on the TV, showing him what a fun guy he used to be.

An insider said: "Tony is getting on everyone's nerves with his bah humbug attitude."

"He almost drives away those he cares about most, until the ghost of Jambo arrives."



STEAMY SEX: Martin

Martin in sex trap

CORRIE teenager Katy Harris is about to set a baby trap for her unwilling-to-commit lover Martin Platt.

The sexy toygirl will ditch her contraceptive pills and start having non-stop sex with her sugar daddy (Sean Wilson, 41) in a bid to get pregnant.

Young temptress Katy (Lucy-Jo Hudson, 21) will hatch her plot after Martin rejects marriage.

But she could be drawing Martin and herself into danger from her hot-head father Tommy, played by Thomas Craig, who is leaving the show.

CAIN'S MOB NIGHTMARE

Dingle yob on gangster hit-list

EMMERDALE tough-guy Cain Dingle has finally met his match.

■ by EMILY ROSE

The brutal thug (Jeff Hordley, 30) is left terrified after crossing two gangsters.

Cain pinched £5,000 in the summer but didn't know it belonged to the underworld bosses.

And when they turn up in Beckindale, he realises he is way out of his league.

Last night, a show insider revealed: "Cain is finally going to get his come-uppance. He's been a big fish in a little pool. But these

guys are heavy-duty criminals and will stop at nothing to get their money back."

The gangsters even threaten to hurt his 15-year-old daughter Debbie.

She goes to grandad Zak for help but Cain tells him to keep away. The insider added: "Cain tells his dad he can't help because Zak's past it. Cain has to deal with it on his own."

Desperate Cain even tries to blackmail Robert Sugden (Karl Davies, 22) over his affair with Sadie King (Patsy Kensit, 36).



HARD UP: Cain, right, gets heavy with Karl



Tyrone gets his afters...

■ TYRONE saves the day for ex-love Maria (Samia Ghadie, 22) and earns a kiss. Maria has Tyrone (Alan Halsall, 21) over for a meal after he paid back £200 she took from the salon - and one thing leads to another.



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Follow our heavenly hints for festive frillies

Stars 'n bras

BLACK TO BASICS:
Gemini Kylie in her
own range of undies

DON'T know which undies to buy for the love of your life this Christmas, fellas? Don't worry - the answer's in the stars. With our saucy astrological survey, you just match the lingerie with your partner's birth sign.

Daily Star astrologer Justin Toper says: "Star signs influence what we like and dislike - and that includes undies. So whether it's a sexy success or a passion killer, it's all in the stars." From gorgeous Geminis like Kylie Minogue to tasty Taureans like jungle babe Sophie Anderton, pictured left, **EMILY VOLKERT** presents our top tips for festive frillies...

ARIES March 21 - April 20

THESE girls are natural leaders in and out of the bedroom and love attention from the fellas. They'll go for flashy zebra-print undies, which will really bring out that animal instinct.

TAURUS April 21 - May 21

THE finer things in life attract these girls. They feel much more passionate when nothing less than the best is next to their skin. So their perfect panties can come in any colour you like, as long as they're in sexy satin.

GEMINI May 22 - June 22

GEMINI babes can be deliciously wicked when the bedroom beckons. They'll go for the wantonly seductive. So be sure to get them slinky, sexy and sheer undies, preferably in black.

CANCER June 23 - July 23

THESE girls may sometimes seem tough on the outside, like their symbol the crab, but they are hiding a whole lot of passion. They feel sexiest in lacy see-through bras, French knickers and stockings.

LEO July 24 - Aug 23

LEO girls can be real lionesses like in bed, ranging from the playful to the downright ferocious! Feline prints, such as leopard-skin designs, will make them purr with pleasure.

VIRGO Aug 24 - Sept 23

DESPITE their pure star sign, these are probably the most sexually-charged babes in the Zodiac. Buying them undies in virginal white or a totally transparent nightie will see the fireworks fly in the bedroom.



FIT: Lucy's a Sagittarius

LIBRA Sept 24 - Oct 23

BABES of this sign are laid-back and confident as far as sex is concerned. They are at their sexiest in designs that are not too over-the-top or tarty. Blue is the colour that brings out the best in them.

SCORPIO Oct 24 - Nov 22

THEY like to play hard to get and mysterious, despite a serious liking for fiery physical passion. They'll love daring undies in a sizzling shade of red - seductive push-up bras, saucy thongs and stay-up stockings.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 - Dec 21

THESE are often fitness fanatics who keep in top shape. That's why they're comfortable wearing undies that don't give much support. See-through camisole tops and panties, preferably in peach.

CAPRICORN Dec 22 - Jan 20

CAPRICORN girls have a serious side and many don't like to be seen as sex objects. They'll choose practical undies, although the briefer the better. Maroons and purples are the best shades to go for.

AQUARIUS Jan 21 - Feb 19

THEY can be seriously inventive in the bedroom and will love wasp-waist corsets, G-strings, and stockings. For a joke present, they'll also warm to crazy polka-dot creations, or even thermals!

PISCES Feb 20 - March 20

THE most romantic sign of all, these girls like to be wooed to bed. They'll feel at their sexiest best in frothy, float-away lace creations. Snap them up in soft pink, pastel white or the lightest of light blues.



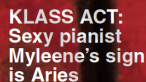
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● **BEFORE** you splash out on that leather basque with nipple tassels, think about what your girlfriend already wears. It will give you a good idea about what sort of thing she's up for.

● PHASED by all the frills and lace

on offer and end up in a panic in the underwear aisle? Go for black. It's the colour women wear most, will cause least offence and will go with all skin tones.

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MUSIC BID: Amanda

Millie love songs

CUTTING IT star Amanda Holden has revealed she plans to launch a music career in the New Year.

The sexy blonde, 33, engaged to music boss Chris Hughes, 30, says she has been offered record deals and is now planning an assault on the charts.

But Amanda, who starred in West End musical Thoroughly Modern Millie, thinks she is past it for pop music success.

"I don't think I can do pop, because I reckon I'm a bit old," Amanda said on ITV1's Today With Des & Mel.

Bitchy

"I think I've got a broad range of fans because people who came to see Millie were everything from 13-year-old girls to more mature people.

"So it's simply finding the sort of music I want to do."

Amanda, who split from ex-husband Les Dennis, 50, two years ago, also revealed she is returning to her role as bitchy hairdresser Mia Bevan in Cutting It.

She said: "They've told me the most fantastic plot lines - Mia's going to be totally mental."

"I think this is going to be the last series, so watch this space!"

A FORMER star of So Solid Crew yesterday pleaded not guilty at Southwark Crown Court to stabbing a man in London's West End. Rapper Romeo, 24, real name Marvin Dawkins, is accused with three others. The trial starts in June.

Cop on sex rap

A POLICEMAN touched a teenager's naked breast while on duty after asking to see her nipple piercing, a court was told.

Paul McKenna, 36, called at the 17-year-old's home in Bournemouth over a dispute with neighbours. Bournemouth Crown Court heard that married McKenna has been removed from frontline duties with Dorset Police.

He denies indecent assault. The trial continues.

CRIME ON THE UP

THE opening of a subway station in Shenzhen, China, has been delayed - after 20 armed men stole the escalator.

'DRUNK DRIVER BLAMES DYING WIFE FOR CRASH'

Picture: CABARAZZI PICTURES



TV gong for Tash

TELLY babe Natasha Kaplinsky, 32, was all smiles as she collected a top gong at the Variety Club's Awards in London. The BBC Breakfast and Strictly Come Dancing star was crowned Terrestrial TV Personality of the Year at the awards held in association with Daily Star owners Express Newspapers.

A DRUNK driver pulled his dying wife out of their crashed car and lied that she had been at the wheel, a court heard.

Claire Chakudunga, 30, suffered a fractured skull when their vehicle left the road and hit a tree.

But husband Vimbai, 28, hauled her out of her seat and on to the ground. And as she lay unconscious, Chakudunga - who later failed a breath test - told witnesses she had been driving.

He escaped with minor wounds but his wife died in hospital 10 days later. Prosecutor Grace Hale said a couple stopped when they saw the wrecked car off the A60 in Ravenshead, Notts, last November. She said: "There were two occupants - an unconscious female in the passenger seat and a black male in the driver's seat."

Swerved

"They saw the man in the driver's seat lean across the passenger seat to push open the passenger door. It opened and the female slumped out of the car. He climbed out and pulled her from the car before placing her on the ground."

Another witness claimed Chakudunga said his wife had swerved to miss a

by JERRY LAWTON

woman crossing the road. But Miss Hale said damage down the passenger side was consistent with her injuries. The chance that blood on the driver's airbag was not his was "one billion to one".

Also, CCTV film taken from a KFC restaurant showed him at the wheel.

Chakudunga, of Mansfield, Notts, denies causing death by careless driving and not providing a blood sample.

The trial at Nottingham Crown Court continues.



ACCUSED: Chakudunga



VICTIM: His wife Claire

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